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Rabble-rousing rebel tackles CIA

Edgar Chamorro has been a Jesuit priest, a Harvard grad student, a dean at Central American University, and the spokesman for a Nicaraguan guerrilla organization. In recent weeks, independent Chamorro has adopted a new role: whistle blower.

Chamorro admitted he published a controversial guerrilla warfare manual and worked for the CIA in Miami and in Honduras to overthrow Nicaragua's Sandinista regime. His scrapbook of news clippings testifies to the furor he raised in Washington.

Chamorro said he came forward "to debate the issues. Covert war is hypocrisy. We have been going nowhere, but people are getting killed."

Now cut off by Congress from his CIA income of \$1,500 to \$2,000 a month, Chamorro, 53,

lives on Key Biscayne. His savings and wife Linda's earnings as an interior designer support their family of four.

Chamorro, who left Nicaragua three months after the Sandinistas came to power in 1979, has lived in Florida long enough that his grade-school son now speaks English more fluently than Spanish.

At first, Chamorro joined exiles in informal, intellectual opposition to the government. He says he joined the FDN (Nicaraguan Democratic Forces), the largest of the "contra" guerrilla groups in December 1982 "because an American, saying he spoke for the (U.S.) president asked me to."

The Chamorros, wealthy and politically prominent in Nicaragua, have relatives on both sides of the dispute — six cousins are Sandinista ministers.

As one of FDN's seven-member directorate, Chamorro served as spokesman and public relations specialist, supervised clandestine radio broadcasts and gave lectures to guerrillas.

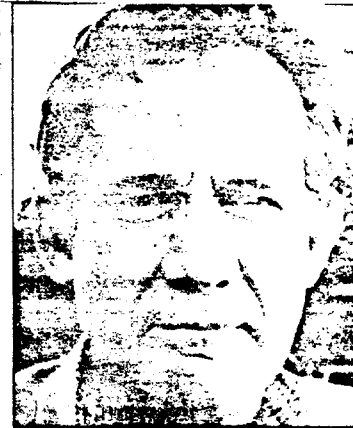
But three months ago — after he started speaking out publicly and embarrassing the CIA, Chamorro was dropped as spokesman. And next week, according to Adolfo Calero of the FDN directorate, Chamorro will be told to "integrate" with the organization or be removed from the directorate.

Miami seems safe to Chamorro, but he's changed his phone number and moved a couple of times. He recalls the time a British camera crew took him for a ride around Miami, posing him in front of wealthy homes and boats.

"I later heard they were hired by the Sandinistas and the film

was shown in Nicaragua. They said all the wealthy places belonged to me."

— Ben Barber



By Joe Fernandez

CHAMORRO: Says he published guerrilla manual